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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION (UNAVEM III)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 26 of Security Council resolution 1055 (1996) of 8 May 1996, in which the Council, inter alia, requested me to report by 1 July 1996 on the progress made by the Government of Angola and the União Nacional para a Indepêndencia Total de Angola (UNITA) towards meeting the goals and timetables agreed between them. It covers major developments since my last report dated 30 April 1996 (S/1996/328).

II. POLITICAL ASPECTS

2. During the period under review, my Special Representative, Mr. Alioune Blondin Beye, in cooperation with the representatives of the three observer States (Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States of America), continued to work closely with both the Government and UNITA to get them to implement the various agreements they have entered into. All those concerned with the situation in Angola, including visiting foreign dignitaries, have sought to impress upon the Government and UNITA the need to take expeditious and concrete steps to advance the peace process. My Special Representative recently held consultations in this regard with the Presidents of Mozambique, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The Joint Commission continued to meet regularly in Luanda and in other locations in Angola. It reviewed the implementation of the timetables for May and June 1996 approved by the parties and repeatedly urged the Government and UNITA to carry out their obligations promptly and in a transparent manner. The Commission has also held special sessions devoted to demobilization and the reintegration of former soldiers into civil society, the observance of human rights, and other issues.

4. There have been some positive developments: the adoption of the framework agreement on military matters; the promulgation of the Amnesty Law on 8 May; the beginning of the process of incorporating UNITA military personnel into the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA); the completion of the quartering of the rapid

reaction police; and the second phase of the withdrawal of FAA from forward positions. In addition, as called for in the Lusaka Protocol, UNITA has submitted proposals to change the status of its radio station, Vorgan; these are currently being studied by the Government.

5. However, other important aspects of the Lusaka Protocol, such as the disarmament of the civilian population and the extension of State administration throughout the country, have yet to be implemented. It remains to be seen whether key goals, such as the incorporation of UNITA forces into FAA, will be achieved within the agreed time-frame. Despite consultations between high-level Government and UNITA delegations on constitutional amendments, it appears unlikely that the Government of Unity and National Reconciliation will be established prior to the convening by UNITA of an extraordinary congress in August.

6. The deteriorating economic and social situation, particularly in urban centres such as Luanda, led to the appointment by President dos Santos of Mr. Fernando França Van Dunem as the new Prime Minister. When the new Government was formed on 7 June some ministerial posts were left vacant for eventual occupation by UNITA officials.

7. There has still been no progress towards the establishment of an independent United Nations radio. However, the Government has given additional time on the national radio and television to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III).

III. MILITARY ASPECTS

A. Status of the cease-fire, withdrawal of the Angolan Armed Forces to barracks, and deployment of UNAVEM III

8. The military environment in the country remained calm and only minor troop movements and skirmishes were reported, mostly in Benguela and Huila provinces. These consisted mainly of raids on villages to steal food and cattle, often perpetrated by persons in UNITA or FAA uniform. A total of 75 cease-fire violations was reported during the period under review, 35 of which were confirmed by UNAVEM III. However, the marked increase in violent crime is causing serious concern. On 22 May 1996, a UNAVEM III vehicle on patrol was fired upon by bandits in the area of Quilengues; no United Nations personnel were harmed, but five Angolan civilians travelling in another vehicle were killed and five others were injured. On 9 June, two Angolan employees of the Halo Trust, an international mine-clearing non-governmental organization, were wounded and, on 17 June, armed elements in FAA uniform robbed a truck belonging to Care International. The law and order situation has become particularly precarious in the areas from which UNITA troops have been withdrawn. Measures must be taken to improve security in these areas, including by extending State administration to them.

9. The Angolan Armed Forces have conducted the second phase of the withdrawal of their troops. However, 14 of the 47 redeployments which took place during the first and second phases of this operation were determined by UNAVEM III to

have been unsatisfactory; FAA are being urged to take corrective steps immediately.

10. As at 25 June 1996, the strength of the UNAVEM III military and police components stood at 7,282. These components continued extensive monitoring and verification of the cease-fire, the withdrawal and quartering of troops and police, the guarding of collected weapons, escorting humanitarian convoys, and other essential tasks. Given the present stage of the peace process, United Nations troops and military observers are increasingly involved in patrolling major routes, verification of the incorporation of UNITA troops into FAA, providing support for quartering areas, and promoting free circulation of people and goods.

B. Quartering of UNITA troops

11. On 21 May, the Government and UNITA agreed on a timetable which envisaged that the quartering of all UNITA troops would be completed by the end of June and their incorporation into FAA one month later. However, the already much-delayed quartering has continued at an uneven pace. On 14 May, Mr. Savimbi promised to quarter 50,000 troops (out of a declared total of 62,500) by 15 June; this level was achieved on 17 June. In the second half of June, however, the pace of quartering has decreased significantly. As at 25 June, 51,597 UNITA troops had been registered in United Nations-run quartering areas and only 26,150 personal weapons and 3,368 crew-served weapons had been handed over.

12. Mr. Savimbi also promised that weapons of a "better quality" would be handed over. There has been a slight improvement in their quality but there has been no tangible increase in quantity. Over 18,000 troops have arrived in the camps without any weapon and only a very small quantity of ammunition has been brought in. Desertions from quartering areas continue, with over 5,628 having left as at 25 June. It is believed that many of them are civilians or members of local militias who had been brought forcibly to the camps.

13. Nor has UNITA yet handed over any of its heavy weapons, rocket launchers, anti-aircraft artillery, armoured personnel carriers and tanks, communications and engineering equipment or vehicles used for military purposes. Without such equipment, the quartering process will not be complete. In any case, the United Nations will not be in a position to declare that it is complete unless convincing evidence is provided that all regular, commando, engineer, support and other units of UNITA have been effectively cantoned or otherwise accounted for. Another source of concern is the presence in areas vacated by UNITA of persons which it claims are its "police", even though the establishment of such a force is contrary to the provisions of the Lusaka Protocol. It is imperative that these personnel also be quartered and their weapons handed over to the United Nations.

14. In the meantime, the presence of over 55,000 family members and other dependants in satellite camps around the quartering areas has added to the daunting tasks facing United Nations programmes and agencies, as well as international non-governmental organizations. Efforts continue to increase the

level of food assistance provided to family members and dependents. Some 70,000 medical examinations and follow-up treatment have been provided to quartered troops. Immunizations are being carried out in the camps, in close cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), while civic education and medical sanitation training is being conducted, the latter in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).

15. The first four quartering areas have been declared closed for the induction of additional troops. However, it appears increasingly unlikely, for the reasons described below, that the official closing of quartering areas will lead to their early dismantling.

C. Completion of the formation of the Angolan Armed Forces

16. In accordance with the agreed timetable, the incorporation of UNITA troops into the national armed forces is supposed to be completed by the end of July. The first two groups of UNITA officers have been incorporated into FAA. They will begin the selection of soldiers assembled in the quartering areas who will join FAA. The return of UNITA generals to FAA is planned for mid-July. It seems unlikely, however, that the end-July target date for completion of the process can be met.

17. It is imperative that careful consideration be given to future plans for those UNITA troops who will not be selected for service in FAA or the national police. The concept of demobilization (see para. 28 below) should be finalized without delay, as further procrastination by the parties could have serious political, security and financial repercussions. Given the conditions prevailing in Angola, the demobilization and social reintegration of ex-combatants must be a well-planned, gradual, and sustainable process. In this regard, the idea of creating reconstruction teams, whose activities would be supported not only by the Government but also by the international community, is worth exploring. Such teams could become an important means of promoting social reintegration, as well as the overall economic rehabilitation.

18. The demobilization process will require the provision of substantial additional resources on an urgent basis. The parties have already asked the United Nations for continued assistance to the quartering areas. The Government has also requested the United Nations to hand over in due course the equipment in them, as a contribution to demobilization. While the responsibility for social reintegration of former soldiers lies with the parties, it will have a beneficial effect on the peace process. I intend to submit recommendations in this regard in my next report to the General Assembly on the financing of UNAVEM III. At the same time, the incorporation of UNITA troops into FAA will be a difficult process and international assistance in the professional training of FAA, as well as in augmenting its absorption capacity, will be highly desirable.

D. Mine clearance and road rehabilitation

19. UNAVEM III engineer units and specialized non-governmental organizations continue active mine clearance and mine verification of access roads, quartering areas and bridgeheads. After extensive delays caused by UNITA, a United Nations-contracted company has finally been able to demine the strategic Menongue-Saurimo road. In the eastern and south-eastern regions, verification is being conducted in Bié and Cuando-Cubango provinces. Since the beginning of the operation, 4,102 kilometres of road have been cleared by UNAVEM III troops, while 3,114 kilometres of road have been verified and/or demined by the company mentioned above. In addition, 24 bridges have been repaired and opened, with the assistance of UNAVEM III.

20. So far, three brigades of Angolan deminers (a total of 188 personnel) have graduated from the United Nations demining school at Viana. Two brigades are working under United Nations supervision in Bié and Malange provinces, while the third is expected to arrive at Cazombo, Moxico province, as soon as transport arrangements are finalized. The training of a fourth brigade will begin in July. In the meantime, UNAVEM III continues to cooperate with United Nations programmes and non-governmental organizations in the collection of mine information for a national database. The Angolan parties have taken the initiative of publicly destroying some of their mine stocks. However, the extent of mine pollution in Angola remains formidable. On 17 June, two United Nations demining instructors and an Angolan member of the mine-clearing brigade were seriously injured while working in the vicinity of Malange.

IV. POLICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS

21. Two hundred and forty-three United Nations police observers deployed at 37 locations throughout Angola continue to monitor the neutrality of the Angolan police, the barracking of the rapid reaction police (RRP), the observance of human rights, the free circulation of people and goods, and other related aspects of the Lusaka Protocol.

22. On 11 June, the Government concluded the quartering of its rapid reaction police. A total of 5,222 of the declared strength of 5,385 has been quartered. UNAVEM III is also verifying the adaptation of RRP armaments to its new mandate of maintaining public order and is providing basic professional training to quartered officers. In response to a request from the Government of Angola, the United Nations has provided RRP with 120 tents, and additional equipment is expected to arrive from the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi.

23. Fifty-five UNITA personnel have arrived in Luanda to be incorporated into the national police and undergo training to serve as bodyguards for UNITA leaders; it is expected that an additional 157 UNITA officers will soon join them. A programme for the disarmament of the civilian population by the Angolan authorities has finally been approved by the parties. Its implementation should begin without further delay.

24. On 8 May, an extraordinary session of the Joint Commission adopted UNAVEM's plan of action on human rights. The Government and UNITA have promised to

cooperate fully in UNAVEM human rights investigations. In the meantime, the six human rights monitors seconded by the European Union have joined the Human Rights Unit of UNAVEM III. However, the overall strength of the Unit is still not sufficient to cover all Angolan provinces on a regular basis. UNAVEM III has continued to provide human rights training to UNITA soldiers in quartering areas, as well as to RRP. It also organized the third regional seminar on human rights in the town of Negage, while a special programme was launched in Lobito by the local Human Rights Committee with the support of UNAVEM III and UNICEF.

V. HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS

25. The general humanitarian situation in Angola is improving gradually. Despite lingering mistrust, joint teams of Government and UNITA officials, with the participation of United Nations and non-governmental organizations, are expanding humanitarian activities throughout the country. Therapeutic feeding programmes have been expanded in response to increased malnutrition in some areas.

26. A crop assessment mission organized jointly by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which visited 11 of Angola's 18 provinces in April, predicted higher crop yields than last year. However, poor harvesting techniques, shortage of basic equipment and inadequate storage facilities in rural areas mean that losses will be unavoidable and a substantial food shortfall is again likely to occur. Emergency food aid and support to internally displaced persons will therefore have to continue for some time. The seeds and tools programme for the agricultural year 1996/1997 is under review to take into account the lessons learned from past agricultural campaigns.

27. Restrictions on the free circulation of people and goods in some areas continue to be a matter of concern. The return and resettlement of war-displaced persons will only be possible if an open and safe (including mine-free) road network is available. Prospects for the next planting season will also depend on this important factor.

28. At an extraordinary session of the Joint Commission held in May, the United Nations submitted a programme of support to the Government of Angola for demobilization and reintegration. Four main components, already included in the United Nations Humanitarian Appeal for 1996, were highlighted in the programme: a community referral service to ensure counselling and referral services; quick impact projects to increase the absorption capacity of the receiving communities and facilitate reintegration; a professional training programme to meet training demands and requirements; and a physical rehabilitation programme targeting the war disabled. An ad hoc programme was also prepared for another vulnerable category, the under-age soldiers. So far, less than 25 per cent of the funding required has been obtained and has been earmarked mostly for the needs of vulnerable groups.

VI. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

29. The Angolan economy remains in deep crisis. The inflation rate in 1995 rose to 3,780 per cent and, if current trends continue, the annual inflation rate for 1996 is projected to be much higher. Real wages fell catastrophically in the first quarter of this year, and the salaries of civil servants, including the police and the military, have not been paid on time; many Government officials have been compelled to seek alternative sources of income. Public services such as telephone, water and electricity have totally disintegrated in many areas. The resulting effects on society at large have been grave. The rate of unemployment is in the range of 40 to 55 per cent.

30. The Angolan currency remained heavily overvalued with an erratic rate of exchange. In addition, Angola faces a critical fiscal deficit which could not be sustained by its economy. A recent visit to Luanda by an International Monetary Fund team produced some encouraging assessments of prospects for macroeconomic reform, but these hopes have not been realized. The World Bank, under its Emergency and Social Recovery Programme, is seeking to provide a loan to Angola totalling about $20 million. The Bank, in cooperation with the Government, has identified four priority areas, namely, the establishment of an emergency fund for children, support for training and employment, support for vulnerable groups, and capacity-building for the Ministry of Social Assistance.

31. The Government recently sent missions to several donor countries to renegotiate its growing external debt. It appears that it hopes to obtain better terms by negotiating with individual creditors rather than through the Paris Club system.

32. In an address to the Angolan people on 3 June 1996, President dos Santos stressed that the economy was in a serious crisis. The "neo-liberal monetarist policy" which the Government had pursued had failed and a new policy to overcome the crisis would be necessary through what was described as a "gradually structured market". The need to restore "discipline and transparency in Government action, preventing corruption and the trafficking of influence" was underlined.

VII. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

33. By its resolution 50/209 B of 7 June 1996, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of US$ 169,118,500 gross ($165,984,100 net) for the maintenance of UNAVEM III for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1996, to be assessed on Member States at a monthly rate of $28,186,410 gross ($27,664,010 net), subject to the extension of the mandate of UNAVEM III by the Security Council.

34. By the same resolution, the General Assembly requested me to provide updated cost estimates for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1997, no later than 1 November 1996, for consideration at its fifty-first session. Should the Council decide to extend the mandate of UNAVEM III, the cost of maintaining the Mission during the extension period will be within the monthly rate indicated in paragraph 33 above.

35. As at 21 June 1996, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNAVEM special account for the period since the inception of the Mission to 30 April 1996 amounted to $46.9 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peace-keeping operations as at 21 June 1996 was $1,678.8 million.

VIII. OBSERVATIONS

36. During the last two months, the pace of implementation of the Lusaka Protocol has improved somewhat. The promulgation of the Amnesty Law, the completion of the quartering of the rapid reaction police, the partial withdrawal of FAA to barracks, some progress in the quartering of UNITA troops, and a small beginning to the incorporation of UNITA military personnel into FAA, are all positive factors.

37. However, the coming weeks will be critical. The fact is that the parties have not fulfilled the time-frame agreed upon between President dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi during their meeting at Libreville on 1 March. Continuing delays in the quartering of UNITA troops, the high number of desertions from the quartering areas, the unsatisfactory quality and quantity of weapons and ammunition handed over, the failure to quarter UNITA police personnel and the incomplete withdrawal of FAA from forward positions all require urgent corrective action if the peace process is to retain credibility.

38. The picture is no more reassuring on the political front. The parties have yet to take a number of steps towards the formation of the Government of Unity and National Reconciliation. Most of the UNITA Members of Parliament have not taken their seats in the National Assembly. Officials designated by UNITA have not yet joined the State administration at the national, provincial and local levels. It is also essential that the question of the post of Vice-President to be occupied by UNITA should be expeditiously resolved. It is generally acknowledged that the resolution of this issue could be a decisive step towards lasting national reconciliation in Angola.

39. If the peace process is to succeed, the parties, especially UNITA, must show greater readiness to implement, in good time, the commitments they have entered into. Unless they do so, the international community is unlikely to make the similar efforts that are required of it also.

40. The demobilization and socio-economic reintegration of former combatants is another essential precondition for lasting peace in Angola. National institutions are expected to take a leading role but significant external assistance will also be required. So far, the donor community has been cautious in committing resources to this process. Of $42 million required for the first year of demobilization and social reintegration, only $10 million has been received to date. Now that initial steps have been taken to form the integrated armed forces, demobilization is becoming a major concern. Without strong donor support, the results which have been achieved so far could be undermined.

41. The rapid rehabilitation of war-torn communities throughout Angola is another critical condition for the restoration of peace. Donors made important pledges at the Round Table Conference in Brussels in September 1995 to fund

high-priority projects to restore the economic viability of Angolan communities and prepare them to reabsorb the large number of former soldiers, displaced persons and refugees.

42. Although progress in implementing the parties' agreements has been slower than I had hoped to be able to report at this stage, I urge the donor community to maintain its support for the peace process, to respond generously to the needs created by demobilization and reintegration and to fulfil the pledges made at the Brussels Conference.

43. UNAVEM III has become the Organization's largest peace-keeping operation. Its continued involvement, particularly at this stage of the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, remains essential. I recommend, therefore, that its mandate be extended for three months, until 11 October 1996. As the February 1997 target for the completion of the United Nations peace-keeping operation in Angola is fast approaching, I have initiated contingency planning for the phased downsizing of its military component as soon as the quartering process has been successfully concluded and the incorporation of UNITA troops into FAA and the formation of the unified armed forces have reached an advanced stage. I will submit the necessary recommendations in my next report to the Council.

44. As Angola begins to recover from the scourge of a long civil war, the need for macroeconomic reform is becoming increasingly apparent. The dangerous deterioration of social and economic conditions, the escalating crime wave, and the lack of capacity to absorb large numbers of demobilized soldiers and resettle refugees and displaced persons require that reform be pursued with determination and consistency. The United Nations system as a whole will continue to respond positively to efforts by the Government to implement reforms and encourage foreign investment.

45. Finally, I should like to pay a tribute to my Special Representative and to all UNAVEM III personnel, as well as to the staff of the United Nations programmes and agencies and non-governmental organizations, for their commendable work under challenging conditions. I also wish to express my appreciation to the three observer States and to the other Member States who so consistently support the Angolan peace process.

Annex

UNAVEM III: Military and civilian police personnel
(as at 25 June 1996)

Country	Military observers	Civilian police officers	Staff officers	Troops a/	Total
Algeria	8	-	-	-	8
Bangladesh	10	21	20	210	261
Brazil	20	9	44	1 045	1 118
Bulgaria	8	15	-	-	23
Congo	8	-	-	-	8
Egypt	10	15	1 b/		26
Fiji	-	2	-	-	2
France	8	-	12 b/	-	20
Guinea-Bissau	21	4	-	-	25
Hungary	10	8	-	-	18
India	19	3	47	1 053	1 122
Italy	-	-	4 b/	-	4
Jordan	20	20	1 b/	-	41
Kenya	10	-	-	-	10
Malaysia	20	20	2 b/	-	42
Mali	10	15	-	-	25
Namibia	-	-	6	202	208
Netherlands	14	8	8 b/	-	30
New Zealand	5	-	10 b/	-	15
Nigeria	20	20	-	-	40
Norway	5	-	-	-	5
Pakistan	10	-	8 b/	-	18
Poland	5	-	-	-	5
Portugal	10	11	12	316	349
Republic of Korea	-	-	6	198	204
Romania	-	-	22	875	897

Country	Military observers	Civilian police officers	Staff officers	Troops a/	Total
Russian Federation	10	-	-	171	181
Senegal	10	-	-	-	10
Slovakia	5	-	-	-	5
Sweden	20	10	-	-	30
Ukraine	5	-	8	202	215
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	-	-	2	-	2
United Republic of Tanzania	-	3	-	-	3
Uruguay	10	12	43	811	876
Zambia	10	15	23	497	545
Zimbabwe	23	22	37	809	891
Total	344	233	316 c/	6 389	7 282

a/ Including military police.

b/ Including military specialists in the UNAVEM III demining school and Quartering Area Administration.

c/ The total figure does not include the nine demining experts seconded by Germany.

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